(b) if so, what is the estimated quantity of foodgrains damaged/likely to be damaged because of lack of storage facilities and what is the estimated cost involved; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to check foodgrains waste and also to create more storing facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Since there is no damage to foodgrains in transit on account of inadequate storage facilities at the receiving end, no remedial steps are required to be taken in this regard. FCI move its stocks only when the receiving region has adequate capacity to accomodate the incoming stock.

As on 1-6-1993 FCI had a storage capacity of 21.33 million tonnes as against their total stocks of 17.14 million tonnes.

Removal of Price Control on Molasses

1575. SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sugar industry is likely to make sizeable additional profits after removal of price control on molasses;

(b) if so, what is the estimated additional profit which is likely to accrue to sugar mills in the country;

(c) whether Government propose to ask the owners of sugar mills to pass on part of it to sugar cane producing farmers;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose to ensure this through higher minimum support prices for sugar cane from the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) Market forces will take some time to settle down and as such it is not possible at present to make any estimate of the additional revenue likely to be earned by the sugar mills.

(c) and (d) Additional income derived from the sale of by-products, including molasses, is taken into account while computing the notified cost of production of sugar. Excess realisation by the sugar factories based on the aforesaid cost of production is required to be shared between the cane growers and the sugar factories as provided under Clause 5A of the Sugarcane (Control) Order.

(e) While fixing the Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane, due regard is paid to the following factors enumerated in Clause 3 (i) of the Sugarcane (Control) Order 1966:—

(a) the cost of production of sugarcane;

(b) the return to the grower from alternative crops and the general trend of prices of agricultural commodities;

(c) the price at which sugar produced from sugarcane is sold by producers of sugar;

(d) the availability of sugar to the consumer at a fair price; and

(e) the recovery of sugar from sugarcane.

Accordingly, the SMP of sugarcane would be determined on the basis of the report of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) keeping in view the aforesaid factors.

चीनी के निर्धारित कोटे में कटौती

1576. **श्री अनन्तराम जायसवाल**: क्या **खाद्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने कतिपय महीनों के लिए चीनी के निर्धारित कोटे में कटौती करने हेतु चीनी मिलों के अनुरोध को स्वीकार कर लिया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो कौन-कौन से महीनों के लिए ऐसा किया गया है तथा कोटे में कितनी कटौती की गई है?

खाद्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कल्प नाथ राय): (क) अगस्त, 1993 मास के खुली बिक्री चीनी के कोटे में कटौती के लिए भारतीय चीनी मिल संघ से एक अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुआ है। तथापि, आंतरिक खपत के लिए प्रत्येक मास के लिए खुली बिक्री चीनी कोटे की मात्रा का निर्धारण, उत्पादन, स्टॉक की उपलब्धता, त्यौहारों के लिए चीनी की आवश्यकता, मूल्यों की प्रवृत्ति, अन्य मीठा कारकों जैसे गुड़ और खांडसारी आदि की उपलब्धता तथा चीनी फैक्ट्रियों को पर्याप्त वसूली सुनिश्चित करने जिससे वे किसानों को लाभकारी गन्ना मूल्य दे सकें, को ध्यान में रखते हुए किया जाता है।

(ख) चालू चीनी मौसम 1992-93 (अक्तूबर-सितंबर) के दौरान जनवरी से अगस्त तक रिलीज किया गया मासिक खुली बिक्री चीनी कोटा तथा पिछले मौसम में इन्हीं महीनों के दौरान रिलीज किए गए खुली बिक्री कोटे की तुलनात्मक स्थिति निम्न प्रकार है:—

(लाख टन में)

मास	1993	1992
जनवरी	5.35	5.50
फरवरी	5.50	5.45
मार्च	6.50	5.45
अप्रैल	6.50	5.40
मई	6.50	5.55
जून	6.75	5.75
जुलाई	6.30	5.75
अगस्त	6.00	6.15

Record Wheat Procurement

1577. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Times of India of 1st June, 1993 wherein it has been stated that the record wheat procurement in the country during the current marketing season may lead to an inadequacy of stocks and high prices in the open market during the lean period; and

(b) what are the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The procurement of wheat for Central Pool comprises only 15 to 20% of the total production in the country and major part of the production remains available in the open market. Open market prices are dependent on the relative position of overall supply and demand of foodgrains in the market. Government has been closely monitoring the prices of foodgrains and would take as and when found necessary all measures such as market intervention, higher allocations of wheat from Central Pool to States/Union Territories for Public Distribution System, etc.

Clearance of Cane Growers Dues

1578. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL :
Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite the reduction in levy sugar from 45 per cent to 40 per cent in respect of existing mills and an eight year levy holiday in respect of new mills, sugar mills' arrears of dues to the cane growers did not come down nor were these concessions reflected in retail sugar prices and the prices actually rose up during April-May, 1993; and

(b) if so, what steps were taken to ensure clearance of cane growers dues indicating the arrears at the end of March, April, May and June, 1993 and the retail sugar prices at these stages ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) and (b) Levy holiday announced in the new Incentive Scheme is in respect of sugar mills which are to be newly established. The reduction in the levy sugar ratio from 45% to 40% during 1992-93 season has improved the financial viability of the existing sugar mills. This is reflected in position of cane price arrears for the season 1992-93 which have declined from 21.0% as on 28-2-93 to 4.0% as on 30-6-93.

The price of freesale sugar in the open market depends upon the quantum of releases, market sentiments, prevailing prices, availability of other sweetening agents etc. With appropriate releases, the sugar prices in open market have now been stabilised to some extent.

The cane price arrears, as also the range of retail prices of sugar in the four principal markets of the country (i.e. Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay and Madras), at the end of March, 1993, April, 1993, May, 1993 and June, 1993 were as under :—

At the end of	Cane price arrears 1992-93 season (Rs. crores)	Range of retail prices of S—30 grade of sugar in the four principal markets (Rs./Kg.)
March 93	544.61	9.50—11.50
April 93	379.18	10.00—12.00
May 93	205.95	11.00—12.75
June 93	164.48	10.20—12.00